Erosion at Majuli Island, Assam

3245. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are awere that Majuli Island is exposed to severe erosion in the recent past whereby several villages of the Island got fully eroded rendering hundreds of families homeless;

(b) if so, the location and extent of damage and urgent steps initiated to prevent further erosion; and

(c) the targetted action plan being formulated and implemented to protect the Island as indicated in reply of part (b) to starred Question No. 591 dated 29th February, 2000 on the basis of detailed project report prepared by Brahmaputra Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) yes, Sir.

(b) The areas of Majuli Island affected by erosion are Salmara, Bessamara, Dakhinpat, Kaniajan, Sumoimari, Alimur, Missing-gaon, Major Chapari, Koupati and Darbar Chapari.

As per the information received from the State Government, the extent of flood damage in Majuli Island are as under:—

		Year 1999	Year 2000 (upto 15.7.2000)
1.	Village affected (nos.)	50	45
2.	Area affected (ha.)	16,000	25,000
3.	Crop Area affected (ha.)	8,094	Not available
4.	Value of crop lost (Rs. in lakh)	756.00	Not availalbe

		Year 1999	Year 2000 (upto 15.7.2000)
5.	Population affected (nos.)	30,000	23,000
6.	Damage to public utilities (Rs. in lakh)	3.50	Not available
7.	Area croded (ha.)	10,000	Not available

To tackle the flood and erosion problem in Majuli Island, Brahmaputra, Board has carried out field survey in the severely affected reaches of Majuli in January-February, 2000 for the purpose of preparation of detailed project report for anti erosion measures in Majuli Iseland. State Government of Assam has also undertaken 3 nos. anti erosion schemes under short term measures at an estimated cost of Rs.6.83 crore in Majuli Island with Central Assistance.

In addition to these schemes, Ministry of Water Resources has formulated a Centrally Sponsored Scheme titled "Flood Control Schemes in Brahmaputra Barak Basin in North Eastern States" amounting to Rs. 50 crore during the remaining two years of IX Plan period in which short term anti erosion schemes in Majuli are also considered.

(c) The survey and investigation works to prepare a detailed project report for protection of Majuli Island from and erosion by rivers Brahmaputra and Subansiri has been completed and the detailed project report has been submitted by Brahmaputra Board to Central Water Commission for investment clearance by Planning Commission.

Removal of encroachments of the banks of ponds and check dams

†3246. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of ponds and check dams in the country at present;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.